

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A computer-implemented method of allocating digital content subscription
2 revenue, the method comprising:
 - 3 receiving usage information relating to usage of digital content in a digital content
4 aggregation;
 - 5 identifying a coefficient relating to a subset of digital works in the digital content
6 aggregation; and
 - 7 generating a revenue allocation for the digital content based on the coefficient and
8 the usage information.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the coefficient is derived from a measure of usage
2 for digital content calculated using usage information from a plurality of digital service
3 providers.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the coefficient comprises a preset value
2 corresponding to a subjective measure of marketability for the digital content.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the coefficient corresponds to an author of digital
2 content.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein identifying the coefficient comprises retrieving
2 the coefficient from a contract data repository.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the coefficient comprises identifying a
2 plurality of conditioning coefficients, each comprising a preset value.
- 1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the conditioning coefficients correspond to an
2 author of digital content.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein one or more of the preset values indicates that a
2 particular conditioning coefficient does not apply and is not to be used in generating the
3 revenue allocation.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein identifying the conditioning coefficients
2 comprises retrieving the conditioning coefficients from a central data repository to enable
3 continuous updates to revenue allocation models.

1 10. The method of claim 7, wherein generating the revenue allocation comprises:
2 averaging the preset values for each of a plurality of digital works in the digital
3 content aggregation to create a composite conditioning coefficient for each
4 of the digital works; and
5 multiplying the composite conditioning coefficient by the usage information.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein generating the revenue allocation further
2 comprises normalizing data during multiplication to create a royalty percentage of
3 subscription revenue for each digital work used in a given period.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein generating the revenue allocation further
2 comprises assigning a weight to each conditioning coefficient before the averaging.

1 13. The method of claim 10, wherein the conditioning coefficients comprise at least
2 one of the following:
3 number of top ten songs for an artist;
4 number of platinum records for the artist;
5 number of years the artist has been with a label;
6 number of records produced by the artist; and
7 a popularity ranking for the artist.

1 14. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving digital asset metadata from a
2 digital asset management system to facilitate assigning of digital content aggregations and
3 the generating of the revenue allocation.

1 15. A data processing system for allocating digital content subscription revenue, the
2 system comprising:

3 a processor;
4 an input/output system;
5 a database; and
6 a revenue conditioning server configured to calculate revenue allocations for
7 digital content in an aggregation of digital content by allocating earned
8 revenue for the aggregation as a whole based upon actual usage of the
9 digital content and a conditioning coefficient.

1 16. The data processing system of claim 15, wherein the input/output system
2 comprises a network interface, a serial port and a keyboard.

1 17. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the database comprises a
2 submission database, a subscription agreement and conditioning coefficient database, and
3 a server database.

1 18. The data processing system of claim 17, further comprising a network server
2 configured to present a graphical user interface for receiving submissions and managing
3 the subscription agreement and conditioning coefficient database.

1 19. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the revenue conditioning server
2 comprises data exchange software capable of translating output data into a destination-
3 specific format.

1 20. The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the revenue conditioning server
2 comprises a back-end server having document routing, mapping and transformation,

3 transaction logging, subscriber management, security certification, and workflow
4 orchestration elements.

1 21. A data processing system for allocating digital content subscription revenue, the
2 system comprising:

3 means for processing data;
4 means for storing data on a storage medium;
5 means for initializing the storage medium;
6 first means for receiving digital content usage data;
7 second means for receiving one or more conditioning coefficients relating to
8 author-specific valuations of digital content;
9 third means for receiving earned subscription revenue data;
10 means for calculating revenue allocations per digital asset, wherein the revenue
11 allocations vary with amount of usage of each digital asset in a given time
12 period, and wherein the revenue allocations vary with the one or more
13 conditioning coefficients; and
14 means for transmitting the revenue allocations per digital asset.

1 22. The data processing system of claim 21, wherein the means for calculating
2 comprises a software component of a revenue conditioning server.

1 23. The data processing system of claim 22, wherein the means for storing comprises
2 a relational database.

1 24. The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the first, second and third means
2 for receiving comprise software modules in a computer network interface program.

1 25. The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the revenue conditioning server
2 comprises data exchange software capable of translating output data into a destination-
3 specific format.

1 26. The data processing system of claim 25, wherein the revenue conditioning server
2 comprises a back-end server having document routing, mapping and transformation,
3 transaction logging, subscriber management, security certification, and workflow
4 orchestration elements.

1 27. The data processing system of claim 21, further comprising:
2 means for receiving digital asset metadata; and
3 means for transmitting cost data for digital assets to a digital server provider,
4 wherein the cost data includes cost information per asset.

1 28. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon one or more sequences of
2 instructions for causing one or more machines to perform operations comprising:
3 receiving usage information relating to usage of digital content in a digital content
4 aggregation;
5 identifying a coefficient relating to a subset of digital works in the digital content
6 aggregation; and
7 generating a revenue allocation for the digital content based on the coefficient and
8 the usage information.

1 29. The machine-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the coefficient is derived
2 from a measure of usage for digital content calculated using usage information from a
3 plurality of digital service providers.

1 30. The machine-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the coefficient corresponds to
2 an author of digital content.

1 31. The machine-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the coefficient comprises a
2 preset value corresponding to a subjective measure of marketability for the digital
3 content.

1 32. The machine-readable medium of claim 31, wherein identifying the coefficient
2 comprises retrieving the coefficient from a contract data repository.

1 33. The machine-readable medium of claim 30, wherein identifying the coefficient
2 comprises identifying a plurality of conditioning coefficients, each comprising a preset
3 value.

1 34. The machine-readable medium of claim 33, wherein at least one of the preset
2 values indicates that a particular conditioning coefficient does not apply and is not to be
3 used in generating the revenue allocation.

1 35. The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein generating the revenue
2 allocation comprises:

3 averaging the preset values for each of a plurality of digital works in the digital
4 content aggregation to create a composite conditioning coefficient for each
5 of the plurality of digital works; and
6 multiplying the composite conditioning coefficient by the usage information.

1 36. The machine-readable medium of claim 35, wherein generating the revenue
2 allocation further comprises normalizing data in multiplication to create a royalty
3 percentage of subscription revenue for each digital work used in a given period.

1 37. The machine-readable medium of claim 35, wherein generating the revenue
2 allocation further comprises assigning a weight to each conditioning coefficient before
3 the averaging.

1 38. The machine-readable medium of claim 35, wherein the conditioning coefficients
2 comprise at least one of the following:
3 number of top ten songs for an artist;
4 number of platinum records for the artist;

5 number of years the artist has been with a label;
6 number of records produced by the artist; and
7 a popularity ranking for the artist.

1 39. The machine-readable medium of claim 33, wherein identifying the plurality of
2 conditioning coefficients comprises retrieving the conditioning coefficients from a central
3 data repository.